

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

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TAGS: PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR CCINC HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE
VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: A) 74 STATE 244393; B) AMB VAN HOLLEN'S
CONVERSATION WITH DAVID ERNST, DEP COORDINATOR, S/NM

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO PROPOSE D.S.E.P.R. (STANLEY)
SENANAYAKE, SRI LANKA'S INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, TO
PARTICIPATE IN CCINC HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE VISITOR
PROGRAM. AS COUNTRY'S LEADING POLICE OFFICIAL SINCE 1970,
SENANAYAKE REMAINS HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL AND RETAINS
CONFIDENCE OF PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN
FRIENDLY TOWARD AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

2. A MEMBER OF NATIONAL NARCOTICS ADVISORY BOARD SINCE
ITS FOUNDING IN 1973, HE ALSO SUPERVISES HEAD OF POLICE
NARCOTICS BUREAU. SENANAYAKE REPRESENTED GSL AT UN-
SPONSORED MEETINGS OF OPERATIONAL HEADS OF NATIONAL
NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, FAR EAST REGION,
IN BANGKOK SEPT 1974 AND JAKARTA, NOV 1975.
HE ALSO ASSISTED MAJOR COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU WORKSHOP
IN COLOMBO IN OCT 1973. HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY HIS
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN DEC 1975 THAT GSL WILL

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SOON SET UP NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNITS IN

KANKESANTURAI (NORTHERN PROVINCE) AND IN GANJA-GROWING AREA IN SOUTHEAST. DURING RECENT VISIT TO INDIA, WE BELIEVE HE CONFERRED WITH INDIAN AUTHORITIES ON NARCOTICS SMUGGLING AS WELL AS OTHER POLICE MATTERS.

3. SRI LANKA HAS SIZEABLE IF NOT MAJOR NARCOTICS PROBLEM. POLICE ESTIMATE 5 TO 6 TONS OF OPIUM ILLICTLY ENTER CEYLON ANNUAL FROM INDIA AND THAT AMOUNT IMPORTED IS MORE THAN THAT USED BY ESTIMATED LOCAL 10,000 TO 15,000 OPIUM ADDICTS. NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICIALS PUBLICLY EXPRESS BELIEF SRI LANKA IS TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR INDIAN OPIUM; THERE IS NO EVIDENCE YET THIS OPIUM OR LOCAL GANJA IS DESTINED FOR US. SURVEY IN LOCAL SCHOOLS STIRRED DEBATE IN MID-JANUARY 1976 OVER EXTENT OF COUNTRY'S OWN DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES HIGH-LEVEL PROGRAM OF UP TO 30-DAYS DURATION THAT IS CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE PROGRAMS RELATED TO SRI LANKA'S NEED WOULD BE BEST. SENANAYAKE COULD VISIT FULL RANGE OF OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL, EDUCATION, AND REHABILITATION, BUT WITH EMPHASIS ON ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD HAVE RELEVANCE TO EFFORTS AND CAPACITY OF THIS SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES HERE, HE SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN GENERAL POLICE PROGRAMS IN THE US. SINCE BILATERAL AID RELATING TO NARCOTICS CONTROL IS ALSO SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE HERE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SENANAYAKE CONFER WITH GENEVA-BASED UNFDAC OFFICIALS AND/OR PARIS BASED UNESCO OFFICIALS ENROUTE TO US AND WITH UN, OTHER INTERNATIONAL, OR PROMINENT THIRD-COUNTRY OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK, HONG KONG, PR PHILIPPINES ON RETURN. IMPORTANCE OF SRI LANKA'S RATIFYING UN 1972 AMENDING PROTOCL AND UN CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES MIGHT BE DISCUSSED.

5. TIMING MAY HAVE TO REMAIN OPEN-ENDED BECAUSE THERE MAY ALSO BE SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES UNTIL AFTER UPCOMING NONALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN AUGUST. FIRST-CLASS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PASSAGE STRONGLY PREFERRED. IF SENANAYAKE CAN BE INVITED, EMBASSY WILL CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF NOMINATING MRS SENANAYAKE FOR IVP GRANT. MRS SENANAYAKE IS ACTIVE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN IN HER OWN RIGHT.

6. PLEASE ADVISE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND INVITATION TO SENANAYAKE IN NEAR FUTURE WITH UNDERSTANDING HE

PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL UNTIL SOME TIME
IN FY 77.
VAN HOLLEN

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